

We would especially commend to our people those educational enterprises which unite the culture of the head and heart with the training of the hands. We should bear in mind the important fact that we constitute the great laboring population of the States of the South. This is an advantage which we should not despise. It is the great lever by which we are to attain the superior level which we so much desire. In order to do this we must prepare ourselves for the demands of a highly improved system of labor, which demand is felt even now, and will increase in urgency with each coming year. Unless we use due diligence in the preparation of our children in the mechanical arts, and in the scientific cultivation of the soil, the day will soon come when the skilled labor from other shores will supplant us upon the soil of our nativity, and we shall be found occupying the position of our brethren of the North. Labor is honorable. It is the law of life. "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread." We cannot all succeed to the learned professions. We should not if we could. This is not desirable. Our great need is skilled workmen in every department of our varied life.

Seventh, We point, with feelings of sincere pride, to the progressive strides of our people since emancipation. The records of the State show that we have accumulated property, the tax value of which is \$9,000,000. When it is remembered that this represents not more than two-thirds of the actual value of such property, it will be seen that our accumulations must reach nearly \$14,000,000. From nought to fourteen million dollars in thirty years, under the most adverse conditions, is an argument in favor of the manhood of the race, and its magnificent possibilities, more eloquent and convincing than any other that could be advanced. It means that we are planting ourselves in the soil of our country. It proclaims to the world that we are organizing homes. It is complete evidence of the fact that we are day by day becoming better citizens. We hope to have the encouragement of all the people of the State in our efforts to better our condition by securing homes of our own, in which we may cultivate the domestic virtues and assist in bearing the burdens of government.